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The following are the only positions of the comet I was able to secure before the Moon shut it out. Although a conspicuous object, about as bright at first as the Magellan clouds, it became rapidly fainter, and at no time was there any defined nucleus* or condensation about the head. It was simply a narrow nebulous streak of about 30° long, and although with the naked eye, or with an ordinary field-glass, the position of the head of the comet could be fairly determined, yet seen through the Equatorial the head was so diffused and died away so gradually that it was quite impossible to say where it was. The positions I give are consequently mere rough approximations obtained by the Equatorial, checked by the naked eye.

On the 24th, at 9 P.M., the head of the comet was partly over and a little to the right of α *Gruis*, which star appeared as a bright stellar nucleus.

On the 20th the head was in the midst of the group τ^1, τ^2, τ^3 *Gruis*, the tail passing between *h*2 and 58, and over ι *Toucani* and to the left of α *Hydri*.

On the 27th the head of the comet, a very diffused nebulous mass, appeared to be cut off by a wide break or rift, from the tail, and higher up there was another narrow break in the continuity of the tail. Both of these breaks might be attributable to small clouds, but we could see faint stars through the breach which seemed to forbid such a supposition :

			R.A.		Dec.		
		h	h	m	°	′	
Jan.	21	9	21	5	−42	34	
	22	9	21	21	44	17	
	25	$9\frac{1}{4}$	22	22	48	18	
	26	9·40	22	47	49	14	
	27	9·15	23	9	49	39	guess work

I shall be curious to know how these agree with, perhaps better, positions obtained elsewhere. I send them hoping they may at least be useful in identifying the comet which I am disposed to regard as a fragment of some previous visitor.

The Moon and Aldebaran, 1887, *March* 2, $5^h\ 45^m$ *to* $6^h\ 0^m$ *G.M.T.*, *as seen at the Radcliffe Observatory*, *Oxford*. By E. J. Stone, M.A., F.R.S.

The occultation of *Aldebaran* by the Moon predicted to take place on 1887, March 2, was carefully looked for at the Radcliffe Observatory, but though an extraordinarily near appulse took place there was no occultation at Oxford. The overlapping of

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* A nucleus was observed by Mr. Eddie of Grahamstown, on Jan. 24, 25, and 26.—Ed.

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the image of the Moon's limb and the diffraction image of the star appears to render a record of these observations desirable.

The following notes were made by the observers:

Mr. Wickham, with heliometer, 7½-inch object-glass, and power = 200:

'The star did not disappear, but skirted the north limb. The exterior flames of the star's image on the side next the Moon were, at times, lost in the Moon's disc, although there was a strong contrast between the quality of the Moon's light and that of the star. The Moon's colour was a dead creamy white, the star's a brilliant light orange. The close contact of the star's disc to that of the Moon lasted without apparent change for nearly three minutes. The nearest appulse took place close to the division of the illuminated and defective limbs. There was very strong twilight.'

Mr. Robinson, with Marlborough telescope, 3¼-inch object-glass, and power = 80:

'The star was not occulted, but it apparently grazed the Moon's N. limb; three or four minutes previous to this, or about 5$^{\mathrm{h}}$ 47$^{\mathrm{m}}$ G.M.T., the Moon's periphery when produced beyond the N. cusp appeared to bisect the star. The dark limb of the Moon was not visible owing to twilight. The colour of the star greatly contrasted with that of the Moon, being orange-red throughout.'

Mr. Bellamy, with 10-foot telescope, 7-inch object-glass, power 125:

'The star was not occulted, but the outer rings of the image were, at times, in contact with and a small portion lost sight of in the illumination of the Moon's limb. The time when I estimated that the star was nearest the bright limb of the Moon was about 5$^{\mathrm{h}}$ 51½$^{\mathrm{m}}$ G.M.T.'

Note on the Near Approach of Moon to α Tauri.

By Thomas Gwyn Elger.

Though this object was not actually occulted here on March 2, the exceedingly near approach of the Moon and star was watched with much interest, as it seemed probable, when the time drew near, that it might suffer a momentary eclipse by some of the elevations on the Moon's northern limb. Between 5$^{\mathrm{h}}$ 49$^{\mathrm{m}}$ and 5$^{\mathrm{h}}$ 54$^{\mathrm{m}}$ it appeared to be almost in contact with one of these, without, however, its light being visibly affected. The position of my observatory, according to the 6-inch scale map of the Ordnance Survey, is N. Lat. 52° 7′ 10″, W. Long. 2 mins. 0·4 sec. A power of 150 was used on a 8½-inch Calver Reflector.

Kempston, Beds:
1887, *March* 5.

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